P&SN Police and Security News

Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

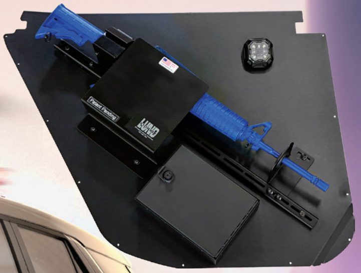
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024
VOLUME 40 ISSUE 6

Optimal Strategies for Training in Low Light

Addressing Risk with the Use of Public Safety AI

Overcoming Training Challenges Through Innovation

FEDERAL SIGNAL
PATHFINDER



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The Future of Public Safety Presented at the Public Safety & Artificial Intelligence International Symposium

The *inaugural* Public Safety & Artificial Intelligence International Symposium is a groundbreaking event set to redefine the role of technology in the field of public safety. Hosted from February 3-5, 2025, in Las Vegas, Nevada, this one-of-a-kind symposium promises to deliver unparalleled insights and hands-on learning from the brightest global minds in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and public safety. Attendees will receive a sample *Public Safety AI Policy.*

Whether you are a public safety administrator, policymaker, data analyst, technology supervisor, trainer, investigator, or simply an AI enthusiast, this symposium offers a rare opportunity to dive deep into the transformative power of AI in public safety. Explore the full potential of AI solutions, enhance operations and shape the future of your agency.

Why Attend?

Expert Insights: Hear from world-renowned thought leaders like Neil Sahota, IBM's "Master Inventor" and UN AI advisor; California Senator Joe Dunn, Esq. (ret.), co-facilitator of AI investigative applications; Jay Stanley, Esq., from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); the Honorable Curtis Gomez; practicing attorneys; public safety administrators who have implemented AI; and AI practitioners. Discover how AI can revolutionize public safety on a local and global scale.

Comprehensive Coverage: Dive into critical topics including legal and ethical implications, privacy issues and the impact of AI on civil and human rights. Learn how AI is enhancing investigations, personnel scheduling, robotics, video editing, report writing, and more.

Practical Learning: Experience hands-on training and real-world case studies on AI applications tailored for public safety. Equip yourself with the tools needed to develop effective AI-driven policies and procedures.

Networking Opportunities: Connect with AI pioneers, industry experts and innovators. Exchange ideas, explore new AI solutions and forge collaborations which will shape the future of public safety technology.

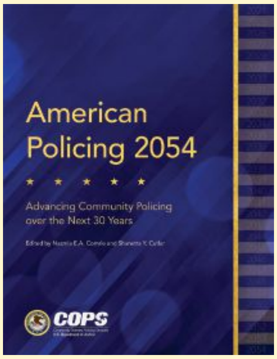
Stay Ahead of the curve by exploring the latest AI technologies, including OpenAI's *ChatGPT*, Google's Gemini, Microsoft's *Copilot,* and other AI platforms to enhance and transform your agency's operations.

Curated by John G. Peters, Jr., Ph.D., and co-produced by the Americans for Effective Law Enforcement, Inc. (AELE) and the Institute for the Prevention of In-Custody Deaths, Inc. (IPICD), this symposium promises to be the definitive AI event for public safety professionals.

Register now and be part of this landmark event! Don't miss your chance to gain cutting-edge insights and practical skills which will drive the future of public safety.

For more information, visit **aele.org.**

AMERICAN POLICING 2054:
Advancing Community Policing Over the Next 30 Years



American Policing 2054

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

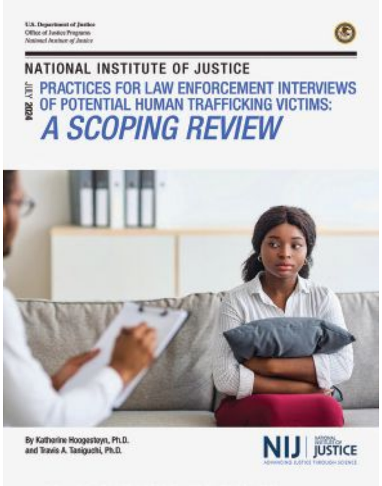
Advancing Community Policing over the Next 30 Years

Edited by Nazmia E.A. Comrie and Shanetta Y. Cutler

COPS

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of its establishment, the COPS Office invited community members and leaders in law enforcement, public safety research and civil rights to contemplate the next 30 years in American policing. This publication collects essays by a variety of contributors from all ranks of law enforcement as well as researchers and civic and civil rights leaders, all of whom touched on one or more principles of community policing – organizational change, problem-solving or partnerships – and present varied, but ultimately optimistic, predictions for the future. As we reflect on 30 years of COPS Office work and influence, we are encouraged by where law enforcement is headed and eager to continue to support the field and the communities they serve.

To download a copy of this publication, visit **https://tinyurl.com/3curvf3s**



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JULY 2024

PRACTICES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERVIEWS OF POTENTIAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS:
A SCOPING REVIEW

By Katherine Hoogesteyn, Ph.D.
and Travis A. Taniguchi, Ph.D.

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PRACTICES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERVIEWS OF POTENTIAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS: A Scoping Review

Victims of human trafficking play a key role in the investigation and prosecution of traffickers; however, their involvement in the interview process and the information they disclose largely depend on the quality of their interactions with interviewers. Victims of trafficking represent a challenging and complex subset of victims. Unfortunately, little is known about the effectiveness of interviewing strategies specifically with trafficking victims. Law enforcement agencies have limited evidence-based or actionable guidance to strengthen interviewing practices with this subset of victims. In addition to systematically identifying and describing the available literature on interviewing potential human trafficking victims in a law enforcement context, this report discusses interviewing practices and recommendations stemming from the literature, research gaps and future research directions.

A 52 page copy of this report can be downloaded at **https://tinyurl.com/28nkxaa7**

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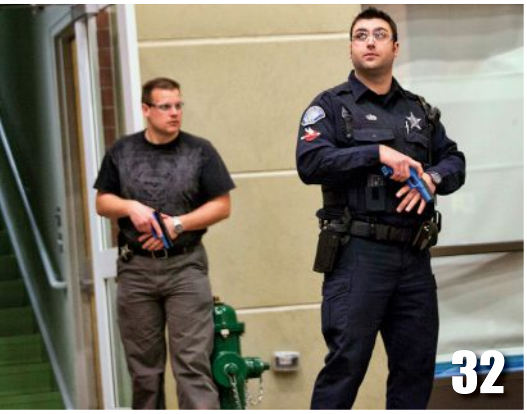
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New Police Vehicles and Equipment for 2025

ON THE COVER

Find all of the newest information covering police vehicles and aftermarket equipment for the coming year in this annually featured report.

Vehicles and equipment pictured on the cover (clockwise, starting from the top right): Main/background image courtesy of Setina Mfg.; new Grab-N-Go door gun mount from Lund Industries; 2025 Tahoe 9C1 PPV; new Stash single weapon storage unit from Jotto Desk; new Golight® SL remote-controlled spotlight; new Pathfinder® PF400 programmable siren from Federal Signal; new Pursuit™ Matrix® LED lightbar from Code 3.

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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Finding the Strength to Laugh

RAMESH NYBERG

I'm writing this just a few days before Election Tuesday, so it's a given that all of us – regardless of what side of the aisle you might be on – could use a laugh about something nonpolitical, couldn't we?

It's no secret that cops need laughter to alleviate the stress of our work. Laughter is the "best medicine," they say, and that is for everyone – law enforcement or not. Dr. Elizabeth Scott is one of many physicians who are big believers in laughing, saying that it "strengthens our immune system by increasing antibody-producing cells and enhancing T-cell effectiveness." Other studies have shown that laughter is associated with lower rates of cardiovascular disease. Yes, everyone should laugh and laugh often. In police work, there's probably just as much to laugh about as there is to weep for. Police humor is specialized. It comes from our need to unwind and to see the world in less harsh terms. We probably laugh at a lot of things which civilians don't. Oftentimes, we don't have to look any further than our own squad rooms. Today, I'll highlight some of the exploits of the more "interesting" cops I have had the pleasure to work with. I know that you all have plenty of your own, so I hope you'll enjoy my collection of knuckleheads. The names have been changed for obvious reasons, though I fear some of my colleagues will have little difficulty identifying these misfits.

I'll start with my uniform days and a guy named Butch who believed wholeheartedly that he was the reincarnation of Elvis Presley. I'm not talking about an Elvis devotee; I'm talking about a guy who wore a gun and a badge and would look you dead in the eye and tell you he actually was Elvis. He even had the little upper lip thing going on when he spoke.

Two other guys I worked with on the road also had colorful reputations, mostly for their screwups and wild behavior. One was Roy Shore, a bear of a man everyone wanted to have as a backup. The problem was that Roy's IQ was akin to a bear's as well. One night, Roy was dispatched to check on some suspicious people down by the waterfront, in an area which hadn't yet been developed for a future marina. When he arrived, he got his vertically-mounted shotgun out, but inadvertently hooked his thumb in the trigger guard, sending a load of 00 buckshot through the roof. Roy, however, was halfway out of the vehicle and didn't realize it. He thought *someone* was shooting *at him*. He promptly announced "shots fired!" on the radio and asked for emergency backup. Of course, damn near the entire district arrived, only to discover that Roy's overhead lights had been blown off the roof. As you may well imagine, that story followed Roy around forever. But, Roy wasn't done.

In the same area of waterfront wilderness, Roy drove down there to do an area check. (You would think that spot held some bad karma, but…) He noticed two guys and a girl there with a broken-down van. They had been fishing, they said, and realized the van now wouldn't start. Roy cheerfully got them a tow truck and gave the grateful trio a ride to the station, where they called a friend to pick them up. It turned out later that the van was packed with about 40 bales of marijuana.

James Lionel, known as an outspoken prankster in his district, wanted to take the sergeant's exam. During this time, the county announced that a preference would be given for female candidates during the promotion process. Many thought this to be unfair, but James did more than voice his opinion. He showed up at the testing site in drag – completely decked out in a dress, wig, heels, makeup (courtesy of his girlfriend), the works. I saw the photos and, truth be told, he didn't look half bad. The test administrators might have been amused, but they didn't show it. They sent him home.

During the late stages of my career in homicide, my partner was a guy named Greg Smith. Greg had a reputation for attracting calamity, breaking things and screwing up electronic items just by being close to them. This happened so often that he earned the nickname, "Ziggy," after the cartoon character who could never catch a break. When I first heard of this, I was sure it was all exaggeration, but I worked with Greg for 15 years and saw it firsthand. I watched as a crime scene tech handed Greg a flash unit (from a 35mm camera) and saw the flash unit instantly start to hiss, pop and smoke. It was ruined and had to be replaced. I saw Greg cause a fax machine to churn to a stop by stand-

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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Continued from page 6

ing next to it and laughed when Greg's county issued cell phone went haywire the day he turned it on. Perhaps my favorite of Greg's escapades was when he was on a cop show featuring one of our cases. It was a Canadian produced show, so Greg had to go there for the taping of the case reenactment. They had a set with palm trees trucked in to make it look like Miami and, just before they started filming, one of the trees fell – right on Greg, cracking his nose. Greg Smith was probably the only person in history to be struck by a falling palm tree in Canada. But, that was Ziggy.

The greatest "funny cop" of all time is Inspector Clouseau. Maybe it's that deadpan while he's saying or doing something ridiculous, getting bitten by the hotel clerk's dog, or destroying some wealthy person's grand piano. Perhaps it's his insistence that he knows what he's doing and is capable of mastering all tasks which usually spirals into chaos. Maybe it's because the bumbling Frenchman lands on his feet in spite of his incompetence. But, either way, it's hard not to love him. In South District, we had our own Clouseau: George Rove.

George was one of the most lovable guys you would ever meet and would give you the shirt off his back. He had an unfailingly positive attitude on the job, but was such an immense, clumsy doofus that it almost defied belief. There are a dozen or more George Rove stories which could fill this entire column, but I'll leave you with the three which have remained South District lore for five decades now.

George pulled over a guy who seemed to make a furtive move while George ran his license. George panicked, pulled his weapon and shot the guy's ear off. After the motorist was taken to the hospital and the investigation began, it was discovered that George's earless victim was wanted for murder.

Back in the early 1980s, we carried those oxygen units in our cars for people who were having trouble breathing. They came with a small tank and a plastic mask. George arrived lights and siren on a call in which a car had gone off the road and into a canal. He ran to his trunk and got out the oxygen unit, put the mask on and – with the tank under his arm – jumped in the canal like some badge wearing Jacques Cousteau. It didn't take him long to figure out that this was not bona fide SCUBA gear.

On another call, George was dispatched to a burglary in progress, but he got the avenue and street reversed on the address and ended up nearly ten miles away, on the extreme outskirts of town, where civilization fades into the edge of the Everglades. There are maybe five houses in ten square miles out there, but George pulled up to one which just happened to have two burglars coming out of a back window and he caught them both.

Oh, we have more stories than we have beer to tell them, don't we? Let's keep them alive so that we can always keep laughing.

Happy Holidays to all! **P&SN**

Ramesh Nyberg retired from law enforcement in November 2006 after 27 years of police work. He lives in Miami and teaches criminal justice at a local high school. He also teaches regional law enforcement courses through Training Force, USA. He enjoys getting feedback from readers and can be reached at ramesh.nyberg@gmail.com. Also, Ram has written a new book, Badge, Tie and Gun: Life and Death Journeys of a Miami Detective, *which is available on Amazon in both Kindle eBook and paperback. You can find it by visiting* ***amazon.com/dp/B0CTQQKQTV***

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FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY

BODY ARMOR AND BALLISTIC PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

New Savage Scalable Accessory System

The **Savage Scalable Accessory System** (**SSAS**) from United Shield International is designed for rapid deployment, allowing users to upgrade from a standard vest to a full tactical vest in seconds. This system includes a ballistic collar with attachment points for the throat and biceps. Its one-size-fits-most design features multiple attachment points, enabling it to accommodate various sizes, with adjustments available for both the front chest and around the torso. The **SSAS** also allows for quick attachment of standard biceps; structured bicep protectors; throat protectors; ID panels; and a nape protector using the innovative “G-Hook” system for added functionality, load-bearing, or protection when needed.

Key features include quick-attach hardware for ballistic biceps, collar, throat, and nape protection; front and rear tunnel adjustability for a one-size-fits-most fit; a low profile air ventilation system to minimize snag points; and a dual bicep attachment system. The **SSAS** provides scalability, enabling users to choose their preferred accessories, while the UPT internal vent system enhances airflow during use.

us.unitedshield.com

New GC RF2 Shield

The new **GC RF2 Shield** is a high performance ballistic shield which provides exceptional protection while weighing half as much as comparable products. It exceeds the NIJ-0108.01 Level III standard, offering defense against the green tip M855/SS109 threat at a weight of under 28 pounds.

Key features include an ambidextrous handle system; an integrated sling system for hands-free use; reinforced edging for weapon slide reload action; and customizable colors such as grey, black and tan. It also includes MIL-SPEC VELCRO® on the sides for shield wall attachment and is constructed with durable, industrial ripstop material and threading.

The shield is designed to protect against various ballistic threats, including 5.56 x 45mm M855, 7.62 x 39mm MSC, FMJ 7.62 x 51mm M80, and others. It meets ballistic protection standards in accordance with NIJ-0108.01 Level III and stab protection according to HOSDB Publication No. 39/07/C Level KR2. With dimensions of H35" x W20" x 1.4", the **GC RF2 Shield** delivers a balance of strength and mobility for advanced tactical defense.

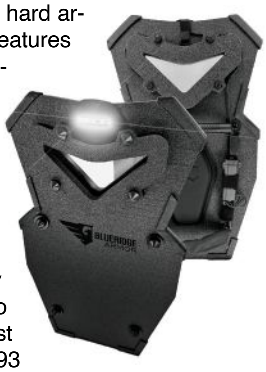
gc-shield.com

New K9 Ballistic Vest

The **P7K9** vest, developed with input from elite handlers and K9 law enforcement teams, is designed for quick application and scalable to meet various mission threats. It provides vital protection for working dogs in high-risk deployments, offering full coverage of critical areas like the chest and neck without restricting mobility. Quick-release, pivoting buckles allow rapid attachment or removal of the ballistic yoke, while adjustable Fastex® buckles enable the vest to be donned in under 30 seconds. Quick to put on and scalable to meet mission threats, the **P7K9** is designed to protect working dogs in high threat deployments. Available in three sizes, the vest is lightweight, stab-resistant, and made in the USA with Level II ballistic armor.

aardvarktactical.com

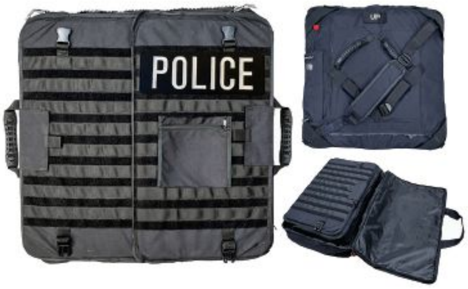
New VENGEANCE™ X8 Ballistic Shield



BlueRidge Armor has recently introduced the **VENGEANCE X8**, a hard armor ballistic shield featuring advanced armor technology. Standard features include the patented VENGEANCE Viewport and Ballistic Bezel System, available in SLR (Standard Lite Rifle) and XLR (Xtra Lite Rifle) options. It also comes with an ambidextrous weapon mount, carbon fiber straight bar handle, impact-absorbing arm pad, and adjustable forearm strap.

Made from high performance composite materials with a durable black or ranger green polyurea finish, the shield is NIJ 0108.01 rated Level III with special threat protection up to Level III+. Optional features include removing the viewport and placard and adding auxiliary lighting. The **X8** measures 18" x 30", with weights ranging from 17 to 21 pounds, depending on configuration. It provides protection against threats like the 7.62x51 M80 FMJ, 7.62x39 PS Ball, and 5.56x45 M193 Ball and Federal Tactical Bonded rounds.

blueridgearmor.com



Bonowi™ FlexShield® Ballistic Shield

The **FlexShield** is a ballistic backup protection system which comes in a foldable compact package. The shield can be instantly deployed – an internal Airframe™ bladder is integrated into the design for additional rigidity. Using a CO_2 cartridge, the **FlexShield** inflates in under two seconds.

Worn like a protective shield, it provides near complete body shielding from chin and arms to the groin and stays fully flexible, even when inflated. The **FlexShield** measures 25" x 25" and can be stowed in a compact carry bag.

When inflated, **FlexShield** also fits between a car door and the seat, or VELCRO® attachments (included) can be utilized to fasten it over windows and vulnerable areas. The **FlexShield** is rated at NIJ Level IIIA and comes with NIJ Level III ballistic hard plates to upgrade to a higher level of protection

stopstick.com

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Portable Ballistic Shield

The **Hardwire Emergency Response Shield®** (**ERS®**) is designed to be a portable ballistic shield which hangs near emergency tools like fire extinguishers in educational and public facilities. The **ERS** offers rifle-level ballistic protection for SROs, students and staff until first responders arrive. Recently, this technology was designated as a Qualified Anti-Terrorism Technology by the Department of Homeland Security. This designation not only validates the effectiveness of the **Emergency Response Shield**, but also provides liability protections which extend to buyers and users. As part of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Congress enacted the Support Anti-Terrorism by Fostering Effective Technologies Act (SAFETY Act) of 2002. The SAFETY Act provides incentives for the development and deployment of anti-terrorism technologies by creating systems of risk and litigation management.

hardwirellc.com

Titan Modular Plate Carrier

The **Titan Modular Plate Carrier** from Spartan Armor Systems® is designed with features such as a hot-swappable placard system and Rare Earth MagLocks, enabling rapid, mission-specific customization. Its laser cut MOLLE, enhanced breathability and adjustable sizing make it adaptable to a wide range of needs and body types.

Constructed from laminate material, the carrier supports plates ranging from 10" x 12" to 11" x 14" with dual pocket technology. Adjustable cummerbund and shoulder straps enhance its versatility. Additional features include 3D padded mesh for breathability; an extended cummerbund for various sizes; and enhanced shoulder pads for improved comfort. The **Titan Modular Plate Carrier** weighs 3.9 pounds and is available in adjustable sizes from M to 3XL, with color options including Black, Coyote Brown, OD Green, and MultiCam®.

spartanarmorsystems.com

ADEPT
STORM RF1
EXTERIOR

New Storm RF One Armor Plate

The new **Storm RF1 armor plate** from Adept Armor is designed to stop 5.56 x 45mm M193, steel jacketed 7.62 x 51mm M80 Ball, and 7.62 x 39mm Chinese MSC and Russian PS Ball and weighs just 2.18 pounds at a 10" x 12" size – significantly lighter than the three pound category average.

What sets the **Storm RF1** apart, however, is its modularity and adaptability. Unlike any other plate in its class, it can be equipped with an additional ceramic up-armor tile which boosts its protection to RF3/Level IV. This tile, easily attached or removed in seconds, weighs only 3.2 pounds, resulting in a Level IV plate which weighs just over five pounds.

Engineered with a focus on modularity and tactical flexibility, the **Storm RF1** offers an ultralight RF1 plate which can transform into an ultralight RF3 plate with ease.

ade.pt

New Lightweight Deployable Rifle Shield

After years of development supported by the Department of Defense, Verco has announced the availability of its new rifle protection shield system designed for US law enforcement.

The **Verco RollShieldMH** offers immediate rifle protection for SWAT teams, patrol vehicles, school resource officers, and first responders, and can be deployed from a compact, nonthreatening, roll-up configuration. The shield is available in two sizes: 18" x 24" weighing 16 pounds and 18" x 36" weighing 27 pounds.

Constructed with VercoB4C™, the lightest and hardest armor strike-face ceramic, the shield's tile design prevents oblique perforations between tiles. Verco's containment system allows the tile assembly to be rolled for compact storage and then deployed back into its precise imbricated pattern.

A free-hanging 18" x 24" shield has been ballistically tested to withstand rifle rounds without perforation, and the **Verco RollShieldMH** effectively stops M855, M43 (MSC), and M80 rounds.

vercomaterials.com

POLICE
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HERCULES LITE
LEVEL RF2 ARMOR

Hercules Lite Level RF2Ceramic Body Armor Plate

The **Hercules Lite Level RF2 Ceramic Body Armor Plate**, manufactured in the USA by Spartan Armor Systems®, is designed to offer superior protection against high velocity rounds without sacrificing mobility. These lightweight plates, weighing just five pounds each, are ideal for law enforcement personnel who require top-tier defense with minimal weight. The plates meet the NIJ 0101.07 RF2 (Level III+) standards and are rated to stop M80 ball, M193 and M855A1 enhanced green tip rounds. With a 9.5" x 12.5" ESAPI size, they provide full coverage. Constructed from a combination of ceramic and advanced Spectra® UHMWPE, the plates are one inch thick and feature an ESAPI medium cut for enhanced fit.

spartanarmorsystems.com

THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

TRANSPORTATION 2025

SERGEANT JAMES POST

P&SN PRESENTS ITS 27TH ANNUAL REPORT ON THE LATEST TECHNICAL ADVANCES IN POLICE VEHICLES, COMPONENTS AND AFTERMARKET EQUIPMENT.

Welcome to the *Police and Security News* annual transportation issue where you'll find all that's new and exciting in the world of LE transportation and equipment. So, arm yourself with your yellow pads and pens and start on your wish lists for the next fiscal year.

I know it seems like our last few columns have featured nothing but EVs, but that's what has consumed the evening news. It's no surprise because of numerous federal contributions to manufacturers (to eliminate global warming); federal, state and municipal law changes to encourage/mandate local EV purchases (and even entire fleets); fossil fuel regulations to support these purchases; and EPA changes to facilitate the switch to EVs.

In fact, I suggest the EV definition be changed from “Electric Vehicle” to “Empty Vision.” It's too soon; it's poorly planned and executed; it's too expensive; and there is way too much foreign involvement and influence. Stay tuned because we're about to announce the latest bad news from the EV marketplace and it ain't pretty. The bottom line is don't get rid of your gas company credit card yet.

EV Sales

A recent headline from *Bloomberg News* read, “EV Sales in Europe Plunge.” Bloomberg continued, explaining that EV deliveries fell 69% during August, contributing to a 36% drop across the EU. This has prompted the European automobile manufacturers to urge the European Commission to take urgent relief measures ahead of 2025 fleet emission requirements which could result in billions of fines for carmakers who fail to meet the mileage regs which, obviously, could result in increased prices for their products.

Volkswagen AG, the continent's largest automaker, is poised to close domestic factories in Germany for the first time since WW II, due to lagging demand. But, never fear, China is in good shape, as they reported sales of one million EVs last month, a new record for them.

US Prices

America's EPA has similar unrealistic changes proposed for our near future which will contribute to America's declining EV sales. That, combined with other EV consumer concerns such as: they are too expensive and too inconvenient; there is a lack of value at trade-in; the charging time is too long; and there is a lack of availability of public chargers.

America's declining EV sales, according to Edmunds, are further declining because of increasing vehicle prices and rising interest rates. Edmunds continued that 69% of new vehicle loans had 60 month plus terms in the last quarter and the rates for 84 month terms are steadily increasing, too. “Longer terms might make monthly payments more palatable for consumers, but the harsh reality is that most Americans don't want to keep their vehicle for seven years,” Edmunds continued. In August, 62% of respondents to an Edmund's survey stated they've delayed buying a new car due to the higher interest rates.

To complicate the sales issue is the fact that our nemesis, China, controls 70% of the world's rare earth mines which produce the ingredients crucial for EV batteries. The US has one rare earth mine in operation in California and another planned in Texas, but even with these two mines at full production, we'll only produce 25% of the world's rare earth needs.

RECALLS

It's often said that the most dreaded word heard during a major surgical procedure is “Oops.” Well, apparently today's current batch of automotive engineers have never heard of this fear, as today's issue lists a record number of recalls from America's automakers. I'm reminded of a time in America (some 50 years ago) when our sales race was nearly lost to cars stamped “Made in Japan” and a new domestic car's owner spent their first day tightening/replacing loose or missing nuts

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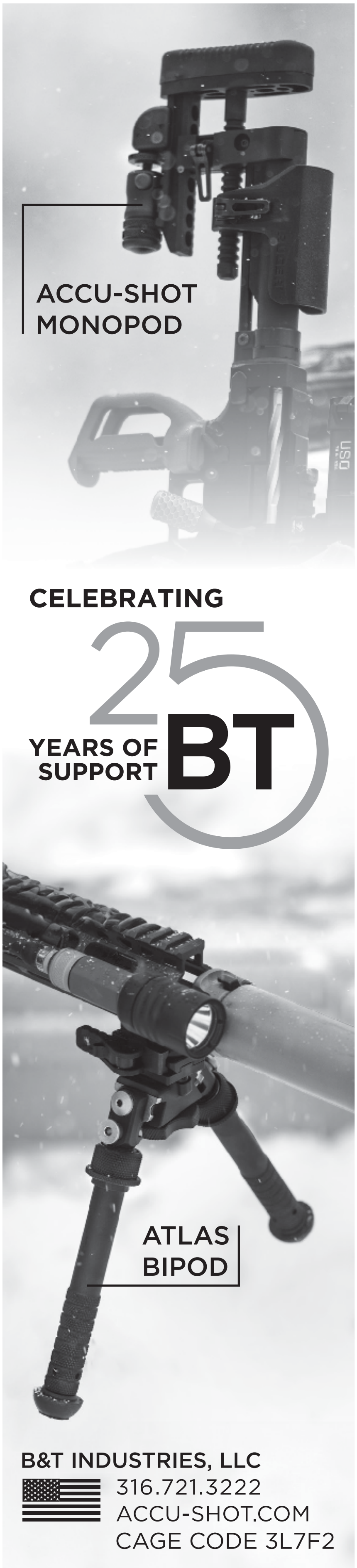

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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Continued from page 12

and bolts or components which fell off. Quality control was nowhere to be found in America.

Ford®

Dearborn's finest announced the recall of 550,000 pickup trucks (various models and years) due to transmission issues.

However, of more concern to departments across the country is the recall of 85,000 PI Utilities. Ford, it seems, is frequently haunted by fires…from Pintos to Crown Vics, they seem to show up every few years. This time the problem is with the 3.3L hybrid or gas engine. As oil or fuel vapors are released into the engine compartment when the engine shuts off, they can possibly result in an engine compartment fire. When this occurs, park the vehicle and shut off the engine as soon as possible, Ford advises. Don't wait for this to happen; return it to the dealer and they will install a corrective sensor at no charge.

General Motors

Not to be left out, GM has announced the recall of more than 449,000 SUVs and pickups due to an issue with the low brake fluid warning light. This includes 2023-2024 Cadillac Escalades; three 2023 Silverados; 2023 Tahoes, Suburbans and GMC Sierras; and 2023-2024 GMC Yukons.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE CRUISER CATALOG?

We have news from Ford regarding their new 2025 Police Interceptor® Utility, a product of their revised EV strategy. The pursuit-rated PI Utility offers departments three powertrain options, including the optional 3.3L direct injected Hybrid V-6 and 75 mph rear-impact crash rating. Technology updates include: 1) Standard Vehicle Integration System 2.0 for easier customization; 2) Police Perimeter Alert for improved officer safety; 3) Police Dark Car Feature to help LE remain discrete during a stakeout; 4) 12.3 LCD digital instrument cluster with certified speedometer; 5) advanced over-the-air capabilities for seamless updates; and 6) Manual Pursuit Mode.

Other News from Ford and the EV World

Ford has also announced that 2025 models will include an all-new commercial van and two new electric pickups, while the South Pasadena, CA, Police Department has become the nation's first all-electric police fleet with a total of 20 Teslas – ten Model Ys for patrol and ten Model 3s for detectives and administration.

From the trivia department: The Alexandria, VA, Sheriff's Office has traded in their last Crown Victoria for their first EV, a Ford Mustang® Mach-E, and they plan to eventually electrify their entire fleet.

General Motors

As reported by the website, GM Authority, the 2025 Chevy Blazer EV Police Pursuit Vehicle (PPV) now includes the Universal Vehicle Module (UVM) as a standard feature, providing upfitters with access to new software functionalities for additional equipment integration.

The UVM operates over the open Controller Area Network (CAN) system which facilitates vehicle communications and control. With ten configurable inputs and outputs and a Custom Configuration Tool, the 2025 Blazer EV PPV allows for software options tailored to a wide range of equipment upgrades. This feature can be applied at various levels, from individual vehicles to entire fleets.

Features enabled by the UVM include Auto Vehicle Start, Shutdown Inhibit, Fast Idle, and Snow Plow functionality.

The 2025 PPV also includes features specifically designed for police applications, such as a momentary start-up control for the HVAC system in K9 units. This "underhood electrical center" option allows officers to keep climate control running in vehicles used to transport K9s.

Stellantis

For 2025, the big news is that Stellantis is launching a new Wagoneer Law Enforcement Package tailored for government and police use. This vehicle is powered by a 3.0L Hurricane twin-turbo engine and it's outfitted with specialized features for law enforcement operations.

The Wagoneer Law Enforcement Package includes essential emergency equip-

For 2025, Stellantis introduces a notable addition: the Wagoneer Law Enforcement Package. This model features a 3.0L Hurricane twin-turbo engine which produces 420 horsepower.

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Continued from page 14

ment like deck, grille, quarter window, and visor lights, as well as a siren and speaker system, a wiring harness and a power distribution center. Additionally, a secure rear gun vault provides storage for firearms and critical equipment.

With 420 horsepower and 468 ft-lb of torque, the 3.0L twin-turbo engine ensures powerful performance, enhanced by an eight-speed TorqueFlite automatic transmission. The Wagoneer also offers advanced safety features, with technologies including a 360° surround view camera, Intersection Collision Assist, Traffic Sign Recognition, Drowsy Driver Detection, and Parking Assistance.

The interior seats up to nine people and offers generous legroom and headroom across all three rows, along with 130.9 cu. ft. of cargo space for equipment and storage, making it well suited for transporting multiple officers.

The Wagoneer's exterior design also includes 18 inch satin carbon wheels, with optional 20 inch wheels available. Although not pursuit-rated, the Wagoneer L is offered in both 4x2 and 4x4 configurations, making it ideal for transport and administrative duties.

In addition, according to the website, Mopar Insiders, Dodge® may reintroduce the Charger Pursuit variant in 2025, designed specifically for law enforcement with high performance engine options and a pursuit ready build. The recent reveal of the 2025 Charger Daytona sedan has fueled speculation about the return of the Charger Pursuit, a favorite among many police agencies. Since its debut in 2006, the Charger Pursuit has been a mainstay in police fleets across North America, known for its strong blend of power and dependability.

THE ANNUAL MICHIGAN STATE POLICE EVALUATION RESULTS

The annual Michigan State Police Pursuit Vehicle Evaluations were conducted September 14, 2024, and the results follow.

This session consisted of eight SUVs (two Chevrolet Tahoes and one Blazer, two Dodge Durangos, and three Ford PI Utilities); three pickups (two Chevy Silverados and one Ford F-150 Responder®); and three motorcycles (one BMW and two Harley-Davidson®s). The results of the acceleration and top speed and braking follow.

Acceleration and Top Speed

We normally list acceleration and top speed first, as invariably these are the two test categories of greatest interest to most readers.

Once again, the fastest law enforcement vehicle this year was the Ford® PI Utility with the 3.0L EcoBoost®, reaching 148 mph.

Top Speed

Here are the results (by vehicle type): SUV – the most popular police units today are the SUVs from Ford, Chevrolet and Dodge. The fastest again this year (at 148 mph) was the Ford PI Utility with the 3.0L EcoBoost®. The slowest was the Chevy Tahoe in 4WD at 124 mph. We also track 0-60 mph and 0-100 mph as these represent initiating a freeway pursuit (from standing) and catching the speeder. The best 0-60 and 0-100 were both recorded by the AWD Chevy Blazer EV at 5.08 sec-

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onds and 11.23 seconds.

Three pickups were tested – two Silverados (both in 4WD) and the 4WD Ford F-150 Responder 3.5L EcoBoost. The Ford was fastest at 121 mph, while the two Chevys tied at 112 mph. The Ford bested both Silverados in 0-60 and 0-100.

Brake Testing

As critical as speed is, certainly braking is just as crucial. You have to be able to stop these beasts, particularly at the speeds we've listed here. Kudos to all the manufacturers as we've seen vast improvements in police vehicle brakes in the last 20 years that I've been covering these tests. Braking tests are the average of two decelerations from 60 mph which gives a projected stopping distance, recorded in feet. The best projected stopping distance of the 2025 police cars was recorded by the new Chevrolet EV Blazer at 128.10 feet, with second best going to the Ford F-150 EcoBoost Responder, averaging 151.83 feet.

Motorcycle Acceleration, Top Speed and Braking

This year saw the welcome return of police motorcycle testing to the MSP tests. They were discontinued last year because of a shortage of certified motorcycle instructors due to retirements. Three motorcycles were presented for evaluation: a BMW R 1250 RT-P and two Harley-Davidsons – an Electra Glide® and a Road Glide®.

The BMW was the fastest of all three motors with a top speed of 137 mph, 0-60 mph of 4.03 seconds and 0-100 mph of 9.36 seconds. The Harleys both had top speeds of 110 mph, while the Electra Glide posted a 0-60 mph of 5.34 seconds and 0-100 mph of 20.14 seconds, and the Road Glide posted a 0-60 mph of 5.49 seconds and a 0-100 mph of 18.25 seconds.

Next, the three motorcycles were evaluated in the brake tests, with the BMW achieving the best projected stopping distance of 143.18 seconds and the H-D Electra Glide just slightly further at 149.39 seconds. The Road Glide posted the worst stopping distance of 158.08 seconds.

A preliminary summary of the results of the Michigan State Police 2025 Model Year Police Vehicle Evaluations can be downloaded at **https://tinyurl.com/2pehwm9z**

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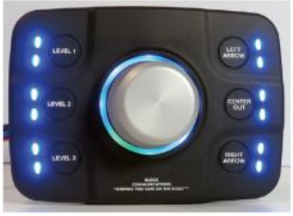
NEW EQUIPMENT

Block Communications

Block Communications recently announced the launch of the ELcK, the Emergency Light Control Knob. ELcK integrates an advanced CAN bus keypad with a rotary encoder and IP67-rated housing, making it ideal for police fleets, as well as undercover vehicles. The controller provides officers with intuitive control of emergency lights and siren tones through a simple turn of the knob, while the joystick enables control of scene lighting. With six additional quick-select buttons for functions like arrow stick control and lighting levels, along with interactive RGB lighting for easy function identification, ELcK provides precise, user-friendly operation. (**whatthefuse.com**)



The new ELcK from Block Communications allows officers to easily manage emergency lights and siren tones with a simple turn of the knob, while the joystick provides control over scene lighting.

Brother Mobile Solutions

The Brother Compact Roll Case offers a compact, lightweight and durable portable printing solution. It holds any Brother PocketJet 8 mobile thermal printer model and a roll of thermal paper. Its small footprint is 28% smaller and 48% lighter than the existing case PA-RC-001, allowing officers to easily mount it in their vehicles with various mounting arms (ball and socket, or on a headrest). It can also be

Continued from page 17

used as a portable solution by utilizing a shoulder strap.

The Compact Roll Case is built to last with a continuous metal hinge for stability and durability and includes serviceable parts, including replaceable latches and rubber seals. (**https://tinyurl.com/32xypb42**)

Code 3

Code 3's new Pursuit™ Matrix® premium LED lightbar offers two levels of lighting and fully customizable flash patterns for enhanced performance. The Matrix Pursuit lightbar can be tailored to individual needs using Code 3's Lightbar Builder tool and it includes a Cat5 cable for easy plug-and-play integration with the Matrix ecosystem. Flash patterns can be synchronized across the vehicle using Matrix software, with automatic dimming based on ambient light conditions. Measuring three inches in height and 13.5" in depth, the Pursuit Matrix is available in lengths ranging from 30" to 71". It comes with multiple lens color options and certain models offer optional internal illuminated signage. (**code3esg.com**)

The new Pursuit™ Matrix® premium LED lightbar from Code 3 features two lighting levels and fully customizable flash patterns.

Estes AWS has launched its latest vehicle storage solution: new underseat lockers designed specifically for Ford®, RAM®, and GMC pickup trucks.

Estes AWS

Estes AWS introduced its latest vehicle storage solution with the launch of new underseat lockers for pickup trucks. Designed for Ford, RAM® and GMC models, this new locker provides secure weapon storage while maximizing cab space. The lockers can be installed under the rear seat in under ten minutes, utilizing existing hard-point mounts and requiring no cutting or drilling.

With a slide-out compartment which measures 40" wide, 4" tall and 12" deep, the carpeted interior protects stored items in a tamper- and theft-resistant design which keeps contents hidden. (**estesaws.com**)

Federal Signal

Federal Signal recently introduced the Pathfinder® PF400, a fully programmable siren which delivers up to 400 watts of power through four independent 100 watt audio channels.The PF400 is equipped with advanced features, including Rumbler® traffic-clearing technology and multi-tone capabilities.

It also offers optional Federal Signal Vehicle Integration/On-Board Diagnostics (OBDII). One of its standout features is the integrated Rumbler capability which allows the siren to produce the Rumbler tone without the need for an additional externally mounted amplifier. The Pathfinder PF400 can generate single, dual, tri, or quad tones, depending on the number of speakers used, creating a powerful multi-vehicle presence. (**fedsig.com**)

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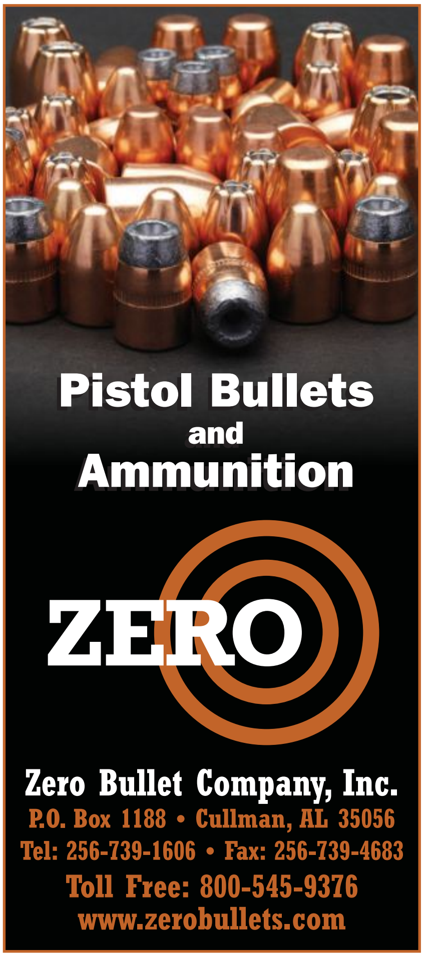

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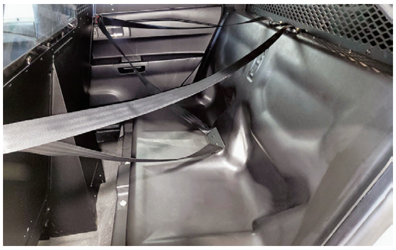
Gamber-Johnson's new Full Transport Replacement Seats are designed to protect the vehicle's interior; maximize space for detainee transport; and eliminate potential hiding places for contraband.

Gamber-Johnson's new Full Transport Replacement Seats for the 2025 Ford Police Interceptor Utility protect the interior of patrol vehicles, maximize space for detainee transport and eliminate potential hiding spots for contraband. These seats feature a hygienic design which ensures cleanliness and reduces the risk of contamination, helping to extend the life of the vehicle's interior. They are also space-efficient, allowing for easy detainee transport without compromising safety or comfort.

Additionally, the center pull, auto-retracting seat belt system maximizes security during transport by eliminating the need for officers to reach around detainees. Built with TPO polymer, the seats are resistant to shattering, flames and chemicals, and installation is quick and easy, utilizing OEM mounting points for minimal downtime.

Gamber-Johnson has also introduced a new low profile console box for the 2020-2025 Ford PI Utility, designed to maximize mobile workspace while maintaining accessibility to vehicle controls. The console measures 19.1" in width, 8.98" in height and 26" in length.

Key features include a lowered top plate which preserves access to optional rear HVAC controls and a sloped front to enhance ease of use and visibility of radio and siren controls. Installation is straightforward, requiring no removal of OEM parts, and the console sits low between the front seats to create a more comfortable workspace. Additionally, the console includes a relocation faceplate for OEM 12V, USB, AUX 12V, and switch knockout, removable cupholders for easy cleaning, a penholder for quick access, and a padded armrest which flips up for added convenience. (**gamberjohnson.com**)

Golight, Inc.

The new Golight® SL is a high-powered spotlight featuring remote-control operation, with a both programmable "ready" button and a "stow" button.

The new Golight® SL is a high-powered, remote-controlled spotlight designed for optimal performance. It features a structurally noninvasive A-pillar mount for both the driver and passenger sides, ensuring the light is positioned without creating additional blind spots, thereby maintaining clear visibility.

The spotlight is easy to operate with remote-control access, offering a programmable "ready" button and a "stow" button for efficient command. It provides 270 degrees of rotation and a 75 degree tilt, preventing accidental aiming at the driver.

With 3720 raw lumens, the Golight SL can be programmed using bluePRINT® or used as a standalone spotlight. It is weatherproof, UV ray-resistant and available exclusively through Sound-Off Signal. (**golight.com**)

Havis

Havis has introduced their new VSX Console for the 2024-2025 Chevrolet Blazer EV PPV. This new console combines the durability of steel with lightweight engineered polycarbonate, offering a 16% weight reduction compared to similar steel consoles. The heavy-duty steel, floor-mount structure provides a rigid framework, while the polycarbonate chassis adds strength.

Designed with a low profile for safety and easy side to side access, the VSX Console includes an integrated printer mount which securely stows a Brother® PocketJet printer in the front, freeing up additional mounting space. An additional front section features include a slot for driver's licenses or cards, pen storage recess, an optional internal pole mount, a port for a 12V lighter plug, and an optional cutout for a Havis C-USB-3 dual port.

The console offers 18" of total equipment mounting space within a nine inch wide section and includes storage pockets. Internal features include an equipment tray, mounting provisions for fuse block kits, CG-X, DS-DA-604 hub, a Motorola® speaker, and an integrated cable management system. (**havis.com**)

i-PRO Americas, Inc.

i-PRO's Arbitrator ICV4000 in-car video system elevates in-car video technology with its VPU4000 video processing unit, advanced wireless networking, enhanced security features, and outstanding image quality. It supports flexible methods for evidence upload and live streaming and seamlessly integrates with the Arbitrator BWC4000 Body-Worn Camera.

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Continued from page 19

I-PRO's new WV-VCR40W, part of the Arbitrator in-car video system, is a rear/side camera with AI-enabled human detection to automatically record critical events.

The ICV4000 offers versatile camera options for front, rear and side views, delivering 360 degree 1080p full HD recording, a broader field of view, and various optical and digital zoom levels. This provides high quality video evidence which captures every detail, even in difficult conditions.

The new Mobile Video Rear/Side Camera, model WV-VCR40W, enhances officer safety and field efficiency through advanced AI. Its Edge AI Human Detection feature alerts officers when someone approaches the vehicle, improving awareness of potential threats. Automatic recording based on occupancy ensures essential events in designated transport areas are captured.

i-PRO's Arbitrator systems allow officers to easily upload video evidence into digital evidence management systems (DEMS) like i-PRO's UDE™ using Wi-Fi, a mobile router or a cellular connected mobile data terminal. Video and audio feeds can be automatically time-aligned, with options to mute or isolate audio during review. (**i-pro.com**)

InterMotive Vehicle Controls

InterMotive Vehicle Controls has announced combined safety and performance products designed specifically for the 2025 RAM 1500. The new UIM+ & PIM Combo merges protection with custom CAN utilization.

Officers can control and activate equipment using the Upfitter Interface Module®+ (UIM+) functions. The UIM+ provides access to CAN vehicle data and is custom programmable. The system also includes an antitheft function which automatically locks the shifter in park when the officer exits the vehicle with a fob.

The Police Interface Module (PIM) provides a function to increase an officer's situational awareness by detecting movement behind the vehicle. The system delivers warning cues while automatically securing the doors. Other PIM functions include a light deactivation mode for covert surveillance, custom reprogramming of steering wheel auxiliary buttons and more. (**intermotive.net**)

Jotto Desk

The Stash is a newly designed single weapon storage unit which can be securely installed in the rear cargo area of law enforcement vehicles such as the Chevy Tahoe, Ford PI Utility, Dodge Durango, and Charger. It safely stores long guns while preserving most of the cargo space for other essential equipment needed.

Each Stash comes with a padded/nylon scabbard to protect the stored weapon. The scabbard also doubles as a discreet black bag, allowing officers or deputies to carry their firearm into their residence or to the range without exposing a patrol rifle.

For quick access, the door can be opened via one of two provided momentary switches. The door features spring-loaded hinges, so pressing a switch releases the actuator and lock, causing the door to swing open. One switch is hidden near the Stash housing, enabling access once the rear hatch or trunk is opened. The other switch, concealed for the driver, can be used to pop the door open one to two inches. Upon stopping and opening the rear hatch or trunk, the door will spring fully open, granting access to the weapon. It can also be opened using a universal key.

The Stash from Jotto Desk is ideal for agencies needing to secure rifles when off duty. It helps keep weapons safe at home and offers a more compact alternative to traditional cargo boxes.

The Stash is particularly useful for agencies which need to secure rifles when vehicles are off duty. This addresses concerns about keeping weapons away from children at home and offers a more affordable alternative to traditional cargo boxes. Unlike bulky storage boxes which take up a lot of space, the Stash is compact, leaving room for additional cargo in the vehicle's rear area. (**jottopublicsafety.com**)

The Grab-N-Go door gun mount (patent pending) from Lund Industries, Inc. is designed for installation on the driver's side rear door and is specifically made to hold an AR-style rifle.

Lund Industries, Inc.

The Grab-N-Go door gun mount (currently patent pending) is designed to be installed on the driver's side rear door and is specifically built to hold an AR-style rifle. It offers two electric lock options for added security. The rifle is positioned in a low profile manner, making it discreet and less visible from outside the vehicle. This mount is ideal for police SUVs, particularly those with a half or partial cell prisoner area on the passenger side. Additionally, it offers optional features such as a prisoner area light and a unique low profile weapon storage box which is perfect for storing a pistol or TASER® during court sessions. The locking box can also be configured to store evidence. The "G-N-G" systems are designed to fit various police SUVs and are tailored to specific vehicles.

Also new from Lund is their On-Dash Mount (ODM) redesigned for the 2025+ Ford Police Interceptor Utility featuring "on dash" mounting to factory points for easy installation.

The unit has lockable 90 degree tilt and 60 degree swivel allowing easy access to the controls, along with a Vesa mounting plate to accept a variety of tablets, docking stations and monitors. A pull pin secures the display for driver's side viewing and the roll adjustment allows leveling of the display. (**lund-industries.com**)

Panasonic Connect North America

Panasonic Connect North America has announced upgrades to the rugged, modular TOUGHBOOK 40® laptop. This Mk2 generation, the company's first with Intel® Core™ Ultra processors, includes advanced CPU, GPU and NPU technology with up to 16 cores. Its NPU accelerates AI tasks for law enforcement, offering up to 143% faster AI application performance, 73% faster generative AI and up to 40% lower processor power for AI-enhanced collaboration. Optional Intel Arc™ graphics improve 3DMark by up to 62%.

The TOUGHBOOK 40 Mk2 adds an optional second SSD to double storage using an NVMe connector for faster data transfer and offers FIPS 140-2 encryption for secure storage. Eight modular user-replaceable locations, including four xPAK expansion areas, allow 9,600 combinations. New xPAKs support faster barcode scanning, enhanced contactless smart card reading and additional ports (USB-C, USB-A, HDMI). This helps agencies meet evolving security and identification needs and simplifies authentication procedures.

Equipped with Bluetooth® 5.3 and Wi-Fi® 7 for up to 5.8 Gbps speeds, ideal for law enforcement, the TOUGHBOOK 40 also improves battery life by approximately 20%, supporting extended shifts. (**connect.panasonic.com**)

Pro-gard Products

Pro-gard Products has introduced the new Cargo Storage Floor for the 2018- present Dodge Durango. This lockable, single compartment system replaces OEM floor doors, offering secure storage for equipment, duty gear and electronics. It features a hinged compartment with locking push-button latches and gas struts for smooth access.

The Cargo Storage Floor installs easily, attaches to OEM mounting points and is compatible with Pursuit model seats and Pro-gard's Cargo Barrier.

Pro-gard has also introduced their Electronics Tray, an enhancement to their Cargo Storage Drawer system. Fitting beneath the drawer, it saves space and provides a designated area for electronics or tactical gear, freeing up other compartments for sensitive items. The tray features a space efficient design, versatile storage and a removable mounting floor. (**pro-gard.com**)

Santa Cruz Gunlocks

Santa Cruz Gunlocks has been producing secure firearm retention systems for law enforcement vehicles since 1988. Their SC-6 Universal Gunlock provides patrol vehicles with numerous locking capabilities and accommodates a wide range of long guns.

Setina's SPT Max is designed for optimal functionality in SUVs and trucks, offering single prisoner transport and interior cargo storage. Its intelligent design maximizes space and enhances reliability.

New from Santa Cruz Gunlocks is their SC-9311-XL which is a larger version of the standard Muzzle Cup. The Muzzle Cup secures the barrel of a rifle, shotgun or other long gun in place while it is stored in the SC gun rack. It typically supports the front of the weapon, preventing potential damage and providing an added level of safety. Featuring a diameter of over two inches, the SC-9311-XL is specifically designed to fit the majority of suppressors available on the market today. (**santacruzgunlocks.com**)

Setina Manufacturing Co., Inc.

Setina's SPT Max is designed to provide optimal functionality for SUVs and trucks, combining both single prisoner transport capabilities with maximum interior cargo storage. The optional "Super Max" increases the offering by including Window Barriers, Door Panels, Transport Seat, and a Security Shelf, and is an ideal solution for single prisoner transport and secure interior storage. Its intelligent design maximizes space and enhances functionality, providing a reliable solution.

A steel reinforced polycarbonate wall ensures safe and secure transport with a single prisoner compartment, and the heavy-duty pull-out cargo drawer includes additional shelving for efficient storage. The single prisoner transport seat does require a front recessed partition (sold separately) for installation.

The Super Max is available for Ford, Dodge and GM models.

Also new from Setina is their combination Max K-9 Unit and Cargo Storage Solution. The Max K-9 containment unit is designed to maximize cargo space while also allowing for best-in-class K-9 transport. Coupled with Setina's popular rear cargo storage system, it provides industry-leading storage space for securing gear, firearms or electronics, while ensuring quick and easy access. Constructed of lightweight, aircraft grade aluminum, these systems offer universal SUV compatibility and easy, no drill installation. (**setina.com**)

SoundOff Signal

The new Stealth lens option features a series of tiny dots on SoundOff's mpower® silicone which provides a more discreet and subtle appearance. Unlike traditional tinted lenses which often reduce light output depending on factors like tint color, lens thickness and light transmission, the Stealth lens' unique dot pattern achieves a similar tinted effect without compromising light output, regardless of configuration or color. This allows law enforcement vehicles to achieve the stealth look without sacrificing visibility, ensuring safety.

The Stealth lens is now available for configuration on the mpower Exterior Full Size Lightbar, Fascia 4", Arrow System, and Traffic Controller. (**soundoffsignal.com**) **P&SN**

James Post wore several different LE badges for 27 years and has written about police cars for P&SN for 25 years. He always appreciates your comments, suggestions and even complaints. He can be reached at kopkars@arkansas.net.

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Managing the Risks of Public Safety Artificial Intelligence

The growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is advancing at such an accelerated rate that it's becoming increasingly challenging to stay up to date.

JOHN G. PETERS, JR., PH.D., and JOHN BLACK, D.B.A.

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AI is the simulation of human intelligence in machines using algorithms which is designed to perform complex tasks which, historically, only humans could do using human intelligence, such as learning, reasoning and problem-solving.

Like any technology, it can be, and has been, deliberately misused (e.g., Deepfakes, solicitation of money) or inadvertently misused (e.g., uploading protected data, not verifying results, etc.). Legal briefs have been filed containing nonexistent cases. Facial recognition mistakes and uploading sensitive and/or personal information which reaches the World Wide Web are factual examples. When AI "hallucinates," inaccurate or false information can be produced which requires public safety agencies to have policies and training in place to reduce these and other risk management concerns. Verifying accuracy by humans is an absolute necessity and requirement.

Policy

Data from a seminal 2024 survey on AI use in U.S. law enforcement agencies conducted by the Institute for the Prevention of In-Custody Deaths, Inc. (IPICD) found 74% of the respondents (n=150) reported not having an AI policy, 15% (n=31) reporting they did not know if there was an AI policy, and a meager 10.8% (n=22) having an AI policy. This is a risk management concern because employees using AI daily without AI policy guidance could trigger Monell liability issues (*Monell v. Department of Social Services of the City of New York*, 436 U.S. 658 [1978]), not to mention associated risk management training concerns. Policy training cannot take place unless there is a policy which plaintiffs may argue shows a municipality's deliberate indifference toward providing direction and guidance to employees about AI and/or that it is negligent.

A 2024 survey on AI use within US law enforcement agencies revealed that 74% of respondents reported lacking an established AI policy.

Shadow AI

With or without an AI policy, employees often use AI daily (think Alexa, Siri, ChatGPT, etc.) and having a "policy" prohibiting the use of AI is not a policy, but rather a rule, according to trial attorney, James E. "Jeb" Brown, Esq., who has defended law enforcement agencies during his 30 year career as a California municipal lawyer. Those employees who use AI at work, regardless of policy, are known as "Shadow AI" users. In short, they are using AI in the "shadows" and will probably continue using it.

Training

IPICD AI survey respondents (n=250) identified an equally hazardous risk management matter: *Lack of AI training.* Of the 159 respondents answering this survey question, 93% (n=148)

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Continued from page 26

indicated their agency had provided NO training about using AI. Only 7% (n=11) indicated agency training in using AI. When employees use AI in their daily work environments, it can be argued that such AI use is a core task per the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) case, *City of Canton, Ohio v. Harris,* 489 U.S. 378 (1989). It can be argued that any constitutional harm caused by AI was a result of the municipality's and/or management's deliberate indifference toward training employees about its proper and improper uses in their respective assignments. A collateral argument can be made that this failure to train is *negligence* by the municipality and/or its agency leadership.

AI Qualified Curators

Associated with both policy and training development are the qualifications of the policy and training curators. Simply reading literature about AI and/or attending an online general introductory AI seminar are not enough to provide these curators with the breadth and depth of AI knowledge necessary for writing comprehensive policy, procedures, and rules, including training. Policy and training developers must understand "what's under the hood" of AI so they can craft an AI policy and AI training which will not be defeated because they lack AI competency.

Internal Affairs

During a recent Internal Investigations/Discipline seminar produced by the Americans for Effective Law Enforcement, Inc. (AELE), real-time demonstrations were performed to show attendees how easy, fast and accurate AI can be used to identify policy violations. However, there must be policy and training in place for internal investigators to guide them and limit their discretion when using AI for such inquiries. Collective bargaining associations (unions) are sure to make the use of AI a contract issue because of its use and/or potential misuse in investigations of alleged officer misconduct and subsequent discipline.

Municipalities and agencies which allow B-WC AI to generate draft reports must implement a written policy and training program detailing when these draft reports are permitted and specifying the review process before finalizing a report, including supervisors roles in the review.

Robots

Drones and robotic devices (robotic dogs, such as Spot, the four-legged robot developed by Boston Dynamics) are classified as AI robots, and need both policy and then training on that policy and on the robot(s) before employees are authorized to use them in tactical or daily activities. For example, how low can a drone fly into a person's backyard

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before a search warrant is necessary? What about a rogue officer who flies a drone to check out people as they sunbathe or peek into high-rise apartments? Comprehensive AI policies and training will address these and similar risk management, tactical and operational concerns.

Body-worn Camera Generated Incident Reports

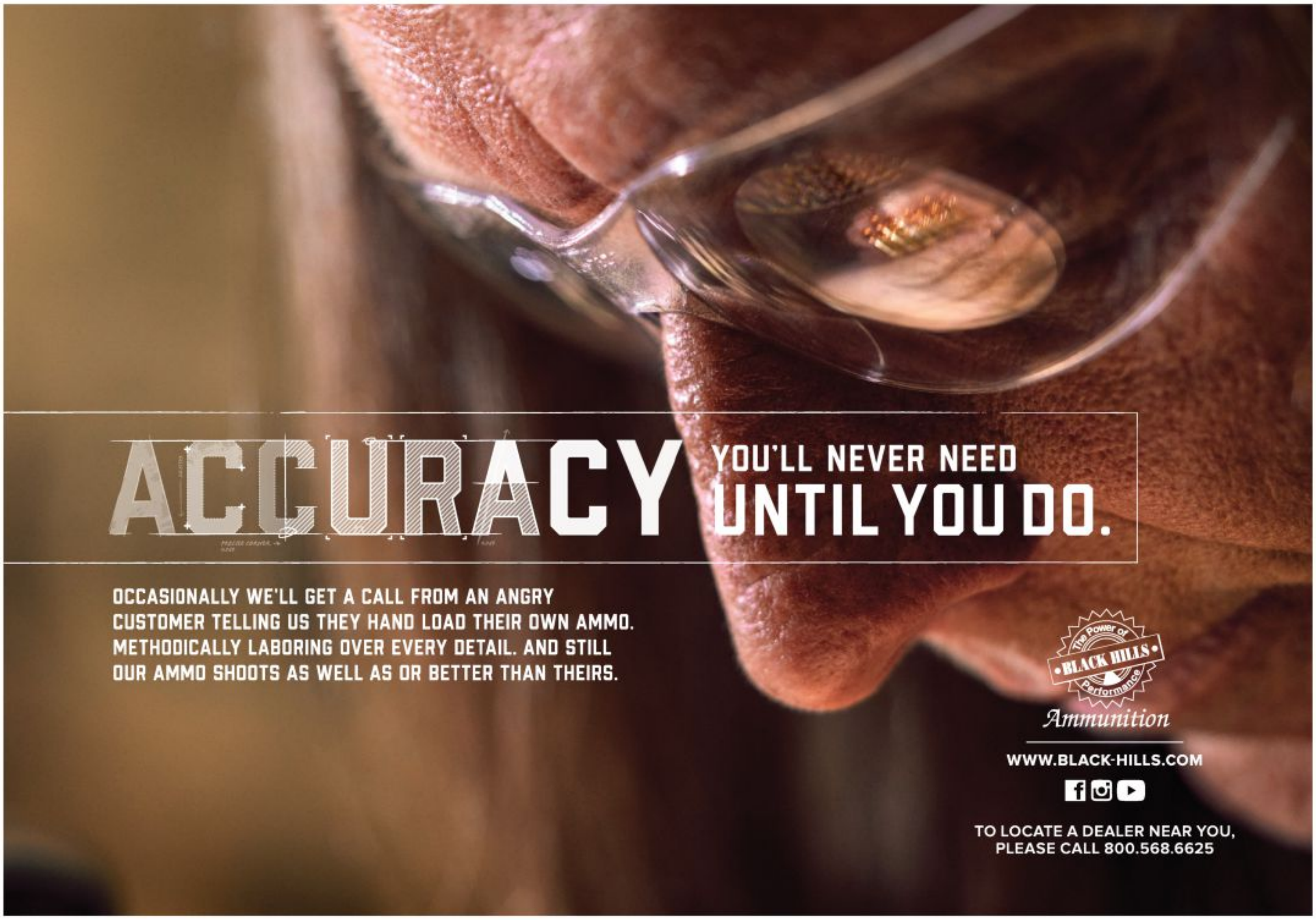
While space does not allow the identification of every potential AI risk management issue, a growing concern is allowing Body-worn Camera AI (B-WC AI) to generate an officer's "draft" incident report. There are several risk management concerns associated with B-WC AI, including policy, training, legal, B-WC limitations, and testifying.

Policy: Municipalities and agencies which permit B-WC AI to author "draft" reports must have a written policy and training in place identifying when such "draft" reports are authorized and how the reports must be reviewed prior to authoring a final report, including the role of supervisors. Recently, GeekWire (September 26, 2024), reported about a prosecutor who told the King County (WA) Police Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association not to use AI for police reports because of "the potential for AI hallucinations." One example identified a report which referred to an officer who was not at the scene. The ease of missing such an AI "hallucination" could be fatal to a criminal case and/or cause other officer and factual credibility problems in both criminal and civil matters.

In another news article where B-WC AI reports are permitted by some agencies in Oklahoma and Indiana, one officer told reporters that, after reviewing the B-WC AI "draft" report, he remembered things he initially "forgot." What else might the officer have "forgotten" or have not known until reviewing the AI-generated report?

AI is an incredibly valuable tool which can aid public safety employees in carrying out their duties, though it has its limitations and is not flawless.

Another serious concern about B-WC AI reports is *perspective.* Per *Graham v. Connor,* the force used by officers must be based upon their "perspective." The B-WC AI report is most likely not based upon the officer's "perspective" or field



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of view, but that of their camera. Retired Henderson (NV) Police Department Sergeant James Borden conducted a limited analysis of video evidence distortion. Using an Axon 4 B-WC, his team conducted a comparison between a 50mm fisheye lens representing the human eye and the Axon 4. They found significant appearance and distance distortions which often impact an Internal Affairs inquiry, discipline, criminal, and/or civil trial. The analysis found distortions in perspective and field of view, and inaccuracies in documentation and visual representation.

First-line supervisors may unintentionally get involved in inaccurate B-WC AI "draft" reports when officers, eager to get off shift or who simply do not critically read "draft" reports, submit them as final reports. Supervisors are usually required to review the reports and initial them as being complete, accurate and thorough. However, have supervisors been trained by the municipality and/or the agency on how to identify important missing information and review it for AI hallucination which may impact accuracy?

Fact! A B-WC, with or without AI, will not record smells or a suspect's muscle flexing or tensing. It will not record what the officer sees when looking in a different direction from where the camera is pointing. These are in addition to what Borden and his team discovered and there are likely more concerns, too.

Summary

AI is an exceptionally useful tool which can *assist* public safety employees in the performance of their tasks, but it is not perfect and has limitations. Policy and training curators must learn about AI benefits and shortcomings before drafting policies, lesson plans or teaching colleagues how it can be used to make their jobs more efficient and make themselves more productive. Unfortunately, the "bad guys" often take the time to learn AI capabilities knowing that many public safety employees will not understand AI. At this moment in time, the IPICD survey results show most public safety agencies lack both AI policies and training. Many public safety employees are beginning to embrace and use AI without fully understanding what lies in front of them. Like other important technology which was adopted and later restricted by court mandates because of improper use, lack of training, etc., there is still time to do it right. **P&SN**

John G. Peters, Jr., Ph.D., serves as president and chief learning officer of the Institute for the Prevention of In-Custody Deaths, Inc. and as Executive Director of the Americans for Effective Law Enforcement, Inc. He has curated AI programs, webinars, online training and has spoken on AI topics before several organizations including the International Municipal Lawyers Association. He is a graduate of several AI programs, including the MIT Sloan School and Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL), and project manager of the IPICD AI public safety survey.

John Black, D.B.A., served over 30 years in U.S. Army Special Forces and 20 years in municipal law enforcement. A judicially qualified expert witness, John is a graduate of AI programs, including one from the MIT Sloan School of Management & Executive Education, is an IPICD Board member, and co-designer of the IPICD AI public safety survey.

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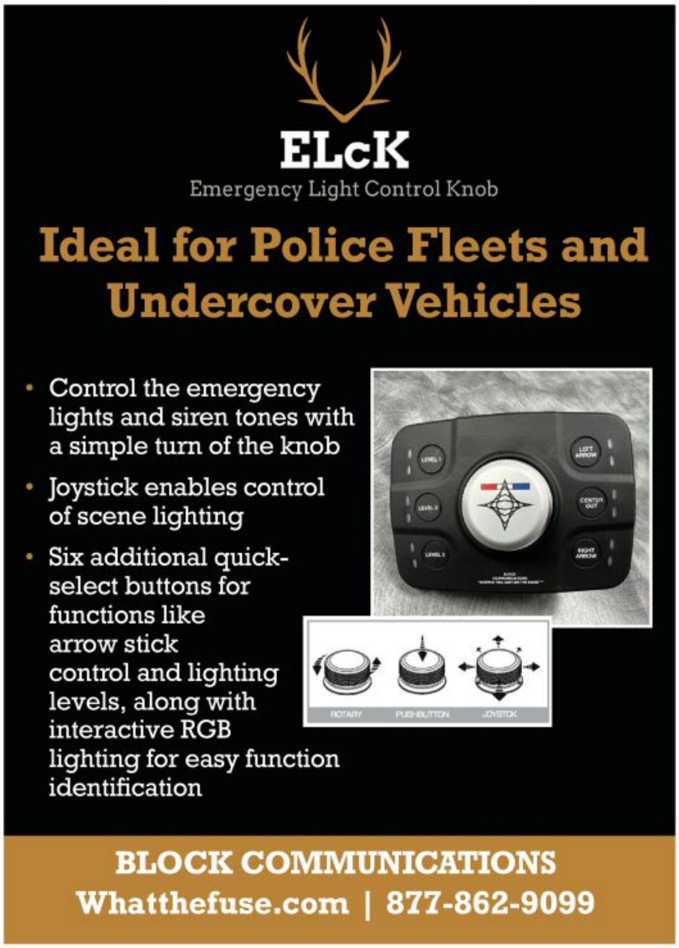

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Tackling Training Challenges with Innovation

Law enforcement agencies continue to face significant challenges in providing effective training, but innovative solutions and best practices are emerging to help address these issues.

EUGENE NIELSEN

Law enforcement agencies face numerous challenges in providing effective training to their officers. These challenges range from budget constraints to evolving societal expectations. However, innovative solutions and best practices are emerging to address these issues and enhance the quality of training.

Challenges in Law Enforcement Training

1. Budget Constraints: Budget constraints are a significant challenge for many law enforcement agencies. Training programs require substantial financial resources and budget cuts often lead to reduced training opportunities. According to a 2020 survey by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), 71% of police agencies spend less than 5% of their budgets on recruit training. This limited funding can hinder the development and implementation of comprehensive training programs. Reduced budgets often result in fewer training sessions, outdated training materials and limited access to advanced technologies. Consequently, officers may not receive the necessary training to handle complex and evolving situations effectively. Additionally, budget constraints can lead to staffing challenges, as agencies may struggle to recruit and retain qualified trainers, further impacting the quality of training provided.

2. Evolving Societal Expectations: Societal expectations of law enforcement are continually evolving. Communities now demand greater accountability, transparency and sensitivity from their police forces. Officers are increasingly required to handle complex situations involving mental health crises, use of force/de-escalation and cybercrime. These evolving expectations necessitate continuous updates to training curricula to ensure officers are equipped to meet these demands. The public's growing awareness of issues such as police brutality and racial bias has intensified the call for reform in law enforcement practices. As a result, agencies must incorporate training on de-escalation techniques, cultural competency and ethical decision-making to build trust and legitimacy within the communities they serve.

3. Technological Advancements: The rapid pace of technological advancements presents both opportunities and challenges for law enforcement training. While new technologies can enhance training effectiveness, they also require significant investment and ongoing updates. Agencies must stay current with the latest tools and techniques to ensure their officers are well prepared for modern policing. However, the adoption of these technologies can be hindered by budget constraints and the need for continuous training to keep up with technological advancements. Additionally, integrating new technologies into existing training programs requires careful planning and coordination to ensure they are used effectively.

By addressing these challenges through innovative solutions and best practices, law enforcement agencies can enhance the quality of their training programs and better prepare their officers to serve and protect their communities.

VR-based Training for Law Enforcement

Virtual Reality (VR) training provides a digital simulation of realistic scenarios for training purposes. Trainees immerse themselves in a 360° interactive learning environment where sights and sounds blur the line between virtual and real experiences. Equipped with a headset and controllers, trainees can look around, speak and move freely within a 3D virtual space, interacting with citizens, equipment, as well as other trainees and instructors.

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1. **Apex Officer – apexofficer.com**
2. **Axon VR Training – axon.com/products/vr**
3. **InVeris fats® VR – https://tinyurl.com/2m636s2f**
4. **MILO VR – https://tinyurl.com/3btrn2vs**
5. **Operator OP1-LE – https://tinyurl.com/3b6pmb69**
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7. **V-Armed – v-armed.com**
8. **VirTra v-XR® – https://tinyurl.com/k5h6tne**
9. **Wrap Reality – wrap.com/reality/**

Innovations in Law Enforcement Training

In recent years, law enforcement agencies have increasingly turned to advanced technologies to enhance their training programs. By integrating tools such as Virtual Reality (VR), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics, these agencies are creating more realistic training scenarios and improving decision-making skills among officers.

1. VR Training: Virtual reality has revolutionized law enforcement training by providing immersive, lifelike experiences which simulate real-world situations. VR training platforms such as MILO VR and VirTra v-XR® offer a wide range of scenarios which officers may encounter on the job, from active shooter situations to domestic violence incidents. These platforms use VR headsets and accessories to create a 360 degree environment where officers can interact with virtual civilians, suspects and

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Continued from page 33

colleagues.

The benefits of VR training are numerous. Officers can practice handling high-stress situations in a controlled environment which helps them develop critical decision-making skills and emotional intelligence. VR allows officers to make mistakes and learn from them without the risk of real-world consequences. Additionally, VR platforms often include data analytics tools which track officer performance and provide insights for further improvement.

VR training is being used by agencies like the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office in Arkansas to enhance both tactical and interpersonal skills. By immersing officers in realistic scenarios, VR training helps improve decision-making, communication and stress management. The high level of engagement and realism offered by VR technology makes it an effective tool for preparing officers for the complexities of modern policing.

2. AI in Training: Artificial intelligence is another technology transforming law enforcement training. AI can be used to create adaptive training programs which respond to the needs and progress of individual officers. For example, AI-driven simulations can adjust the difficulty of scenarios based on an officer's performance, ensuring that they are constantly challenged and improving.

AI also enhances training in several ways. It can analyze data from past training sessions to identify patterns and predict areas where officers may need additional training. AI systems can provide instant feedback during training exercises, helping officers correct mistakes and refine their skills on the spot. By simulating complex scenarios and providing data driven insights, AI helps officers develop better decision-making skills.

3. Data Analytics in Training: Data analytics plays a crucial role in modern law enforcement training by providing valuable insights into officer performance and training effectiveness. Agencies can use data analytics to track progress, identify strengths and weaknesses, and tailor training programs to meet specific needs. Data analytics tools can monitor various aspects of officer performance, such as response times, accuracy and decision-making under pressure. By analyzing performance data, agencies can create personalized training programs which address the unique needs of each officer. Data driven training programs are more effective at improving officer skills and preparedness, leading to better outcomes in real-world situations.

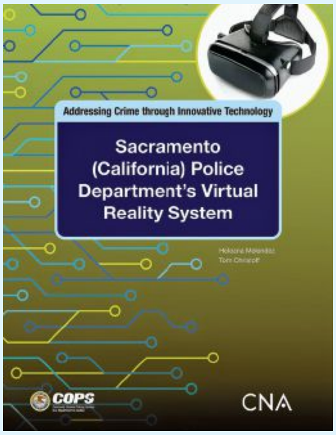
Data analytics plays a crucial role in modern law enforcement training by providing valuable insights into officer performance and training effectiveness. Agencies can use data analytics to track progress, identify strengths and weaknesses, and tailor training programs to meet specific needs.

4. Integrated Curriculum: An integrated curriculum approach combines various training modules to provide a comprehensive learning experience. This method ensures that officers receive well-rounded training which covers critical areas such as decision-making, communication and tactical skills. The International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST) emphasizes the importance of an integrated curriculum to improve learning outcomes. By integrating different aspects of training, such as physical skills, cognitive skills and ethical decision-making, agencies can create a more cohesive and effective training program. This approach not only enhances the overall competency of officers, but also promotes a culture of continuous learning and professional development.

By adopting these innovative training methods, law enforcement agencies can better prepare their officers to meet the demands of modern policing. These advancements in training technology and curriculum design are essential for developing a skilled and adaptable police force capable of addressing the evolving challenges of law enforcement.

Best Practices in Law Enforcement Training

1. Mentorship Programs: Transforming field training into mentorship programs can enhance the learning experience for new recruits. Experienced



Addressing Crime through Innovative Technology

Sacramento (California) Police Department's Virtual Reality System

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ADDRESSING CRIME THROUGH INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY:
Sacramento Police Department's Virtual Reality System

In 2019, the Sacramento (CA) Police Department (SPD) implemented a Virtual Reality (VR) training system for officers. The VR training system is a supplement to classroom learning and has expanded the scenario-based training opportunities for officers, including de-escalation strategies. The SPD uses VR for its Magnet Academy, a way to involve teenagers in grades 9-12 in technical and professional skills related to policing. VR has also been used in community engagement by bringing in community members to experience what it is like to be an officer through the scenarios. This case study discusses the ways VR has been used by the SPD and its goals related to finding new uses for the technology. This case study is part of the Addressing Crime through Innovative Technology series. This publication which looks at the SPD's Virtual Reality System is available at **https://tinyurl.com/23nhbwwd** officers can provide guidance and support, helping trainees navigate the complexities of law enforcement work. This approach fosters a culture of continuous learning and professional development.

2. Continuous Training: Training should not be a onetime event, but an ongoing process. Agencies should implement regular training sessions to keep officers updated on the latest techniques and best practices. This continuous training approach ensures that officers remain competent and confident in their abilities.

3. Community Engagement: Building strong relationships with the community is essential for effective law enforcement. Training programs should include modules on community engagement and cultural sensitivity to help officers understand and address the needs of diverse populations. This approach can improve trust and cooperation between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Final Thoughts

The integration of advanced technologies such as VR, AI and data analytics into law enforcement training programs is transforming the way officers are prepared for the challenges they face on the job. These technologies provide realistic, immersive training experiences which enhance decision-making skills and improve overall performance. By leveraging these technologies, adopting integrated curricula and emphasizing continuous training and community engagement, agencies can enhance the quality of their training programs. These efforts will ultimately lead to better prepared officers and safer communities. **P&SN**

Eugene Nielsen is the owner and operator of a firm which provides private intelligence, security consulting and training services. He has a background in law enforcement and a BA degree from the University of California. He has written over 1,500 articles which have been published in various national and international journals and magazines. He was a member of SWAT Magazine*'s contributing staff for more than 20 years.*

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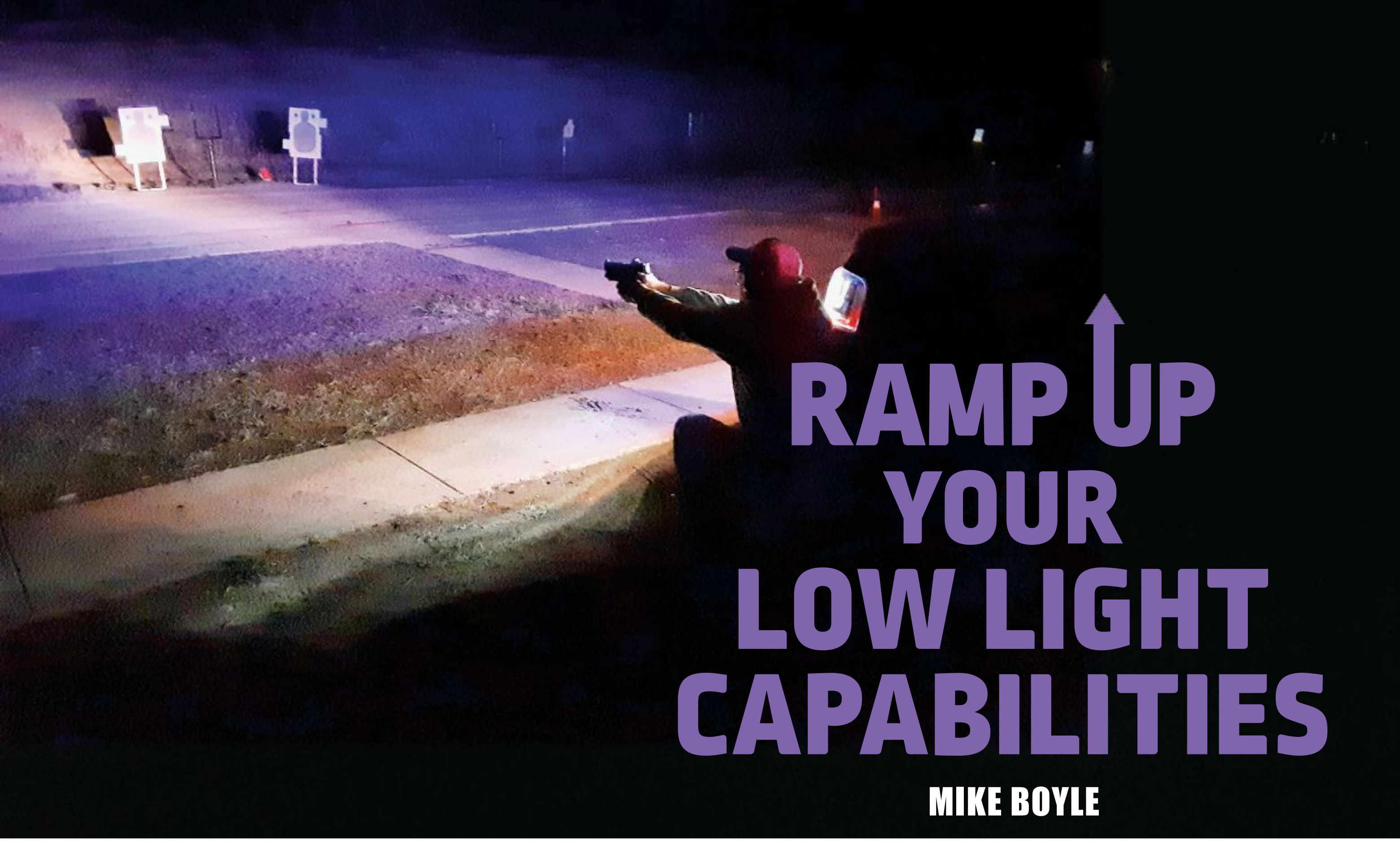

RAMP UP YOUR LOW LIGHT CAPABILITIES

MIKE BOYLE

Unfortunately, even today, many officers are not afforded the opportunity to do any sort of low light training.

A few years back, I was teaching at a firearms instructor seminar in a major metropolitan area when I had the opportunity to teach a low light class. After a short lecture, we moved out to the range where I ran the group through a quick 40 round exercise in order to get some insight into their capabilities. To do this, I utilized a slightly modified version of the course approved in my home state for low light handgun qualification. Imagine my surprise when at least half of the participants were not able to achieve the minimum passing score! Considering this was a group of certified law enforcement firearms instructors, this was especially disturbing.

Were these officers poor shooters? Not really, as most all of them shot pretty well during the daytime exercises. After talking to them, I was told that this particular state had no requirement for officers to train and qualify in poor light and, consequently, this was new territory for many of them. Data from the FBI, the DEA and the NYPD continues to illustrate that most officer-involved shootings take place in reduced light and this remains an area we can't neglect.

So, why are law enforcement officers being shortchanged? In the current social climate, many agencies are reluctant to do any use-of-force training beyond what is minimally required as they fear any sort of "tactical" training will put them in a poor light. In fact, I find the opposite is true. The better you prepare officers in both the mental side and in hands-on skills, they are less likely to overreact and use force inappropriately.

Quite frankly, those tired arguments for dodging low light training, such as paying overtime, range noise after dark, expense, or agency size, don't cut it. If you are not providing low light training, you are putting your officers at risk; creating a hazard for people you are sworn to protect; and opening yourself up for some serious civil liability. For those nonbelievers, there is significant case law which supports this position.

MORE THAN JUST SHOOTING

The ability to knock out a passing score on a qualification course is indeed important, but it only represents part of the picture. Consider that an officer-involved shooting is an unusual event, but managing a threat at gunpoint is a far more common occurrence. Have officers trained in flashlight search techniques? Where is their muzzle pointed and exactly where is their trigger finger?

When probing low light environments, the pistol and handheld flashlight should not be locked together. The light moves independent from the muzzle of the gun.

Searching and probing in the dark are duties we perform on a regular basis while shooting in the unusual event. With that said, any shooting activity needs to naturally flow from probing with a light (either handheld or weapon mounted) to shooting. All too often, officers prematurely lock up their handheld light with the muzzle of the gun instead of keeping both hands separated, creating an unsafe condition

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RAMP UP YOUR LOW LIGHT CAPABILITIES

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Routine probing begins with the handheld light. When the threat level rises, transition to the weapon mounted light.

with a high potential for tragedy. Unless a specific threat has been identified, the muzzle of the gun should not be directed at a subject.

In brightly lit conditions, threats are often managed with a pistol held in a ready position and with the muzzle depressed. In bright light, an officer can turn his (or her) head in any direction to assess potential danger without covering anyone with the muzzle. Marrying a handheld flashlight to the muzzle of your gun or using a Weapon Mounted Light (WML) complicates the picture and violates one of the general safety rules. Instead of locking up the light with the gun, initial probing should be done with the hands apart so that the handheld light can move in any direction while minimizing risk. I am familiar with a few incidents when an officer was “aimed in” with the gun and light in situations which were not imminent threats, merely suspicious persons. For a few different reasons, the officers involved had a negligent discharge striking the subject in at least one of those incidents, resulting in death. For years, I have been teaching a technique where the dominant hand holds the pistol against the chest with the muzzle pointed down and away. The support hand controls the light and works independently of the muzzle of the gun while the officer gives loud and clear verbal commands. Should a deadly threat appear, one needs only to press out and fire.

CONCERNS WITH WEAPON MOUNTED LIGHTS

Not too long ago, WMLs were viewed as an exotic piece of equipment and their use was limited to tactical operators. In the late 1990s, we witnessed the introduction of small, lightweight tactical lights. Around the same time, the major manufacturers of pistols used by the police began offering pistols with an accessory rail for affixing a laser aimer or an illuminator. With the introduction of light bearing duty holsters, WMLs have gone mainstream and are now commonly used by patrol officers.

WMLs afford a number of advantages; the most obvious being automatically lining up the light source with the muzzle of the gun. Basic operational skills such as reloading or clearing a stoppage in poor light while managing a handheld flashlight can be a challenge and these tasks are far easier when using a WML. I have also found that officers can use cover more effectively and achieve better hits when shooting and moving while using a WML. Combination units which feature an illuminator plus a laser aimer offer even greater capabilities to the user.

Like any number of new tools which come into the workplace, the advantages of a WML can be negated should you forgo proper training. The first thing officers need to understand when going with a

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Officers have to be aware that their weapon mounted light should always be activated using the thumb of the support hand rather than the index finger of the dominant hand.

WML is that it is a threat management tool, not a utility tool, and the fact that you have one on your pistol does not eliminate the need for a handheld light. All too often, officers have used a WML for routine probing when there was no apparent threat, ultimately putting people at risk.

A key component in my low light training is transitions when an officer begins the scenario probing an area with a handheld light and pistol contained in the holster. On the command, the threat level rises and the officer draws the pistol, activates the WML and issues a verbal command. This scenario may or may not include firing the pistol, but will always include verbal direction. In a threat management situation with a WML, depress the muzzle slightly and there will be adequate light to clearly see the hands and waistband of a subject. This minimizes the risk of an unintentional discharge and allows the officer to take in more visual information from the surrounding area.

It is also extremely important that officers follow proper protocol for light activation. Although grip activated switches are sometimes encountered, more often than not, a rocker or button switch is used to fire up the light. Officers need to understand that the light should be activated by using the thumb of the support hand and not the index finger of the strong hand. That digit has one job and that is to manipulate the trigger. Should one get in the bad habit of using the trigger finger to activate the light, it is quite conceivable that they will experience a negligent discharge when subjected to extreme stress in a low light environment.

DON'T CUT CORNERS ON FLASHLIGHTS

Light technology has evolved at a rapid rate and the gear we have available to us today represents a quantum leap over that of the past. Considering that this is vital equipment which you might use to save your life, second-rate gear will not do. I have had experience with handheld and WMLs from Cloud Defensive, Modlite, Streamlight®, and SureFire® and it pays to go with a proven product. If you buy cheap, you buy twice!

Lights have gotten much smaller and more powerful and use CR123A three volt lithium batteries or rechargeable lithium ion batteries as a power source. There are even lights which are dual fuel which can run off of rechargeable or CR123A batteries. Total light output is expressed in lumens while candela is a measurement of light projected in a particular direction. To project light at longer range, a higher candela rating with a more focused beam is desirable. In short, a light with a higher candela rating will project a tighter beam.

Of late, I have been using a Streamlight Strion® 2020 which offers 1200 lumens

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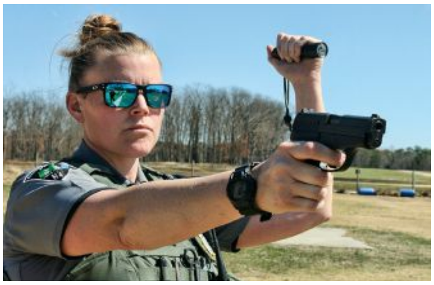
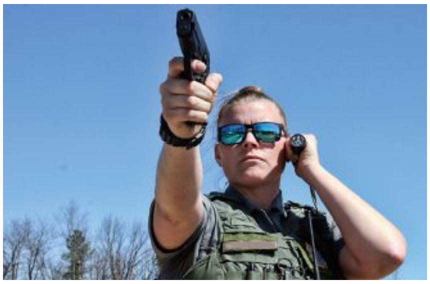


The Modified FBI Technique is a flexible, easy to learn technique.

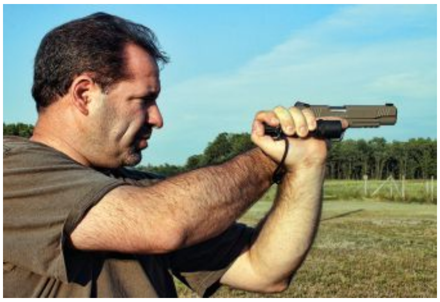
and a 28,000 candela rating. I feel the Strion 2020 would be a great choice for carry on a duty belt, but I prefer the slightly smaller ProTac® 2L-X USB as an everyday companion.



The Neck Index is an intuitive technique which works very well in close quarters.

FLASHLIGHT HOLDS STILL MATTER

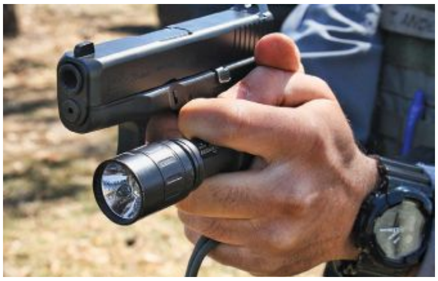
With WMLs moving into the mainstream, some people may feel that getting familiar with flashlight-assisted shooting techniques is no longer important. True, a WML does fill a good deal of the niche formerly dominated by a handheld, but that is only part of the picture. First, consider that not every officer is outfitted with a WML on their pistol and, even if they were, it could go down for the count at a most inopportune time. Many of the smaller handguns used by plainclothes and off duty officers are not equipped with a WML.



The Harries Technique is a very rigid lockup between the light and gun, but can be problematic in close quarters.

Flashlight-assisted shooting techniques fall into one of two categories – hands apart or hands together. Examples from the hands apart category include the Modified FBI and Neck Index techniques. Both are easy to learn, fast into action and are great for close quarters. Hands together techniques include the Harries and Rogers holds. These techniques require getting the support hand into the game and are a little more complicated. Considering that a great many attacks are spontaneous in nature and unfold at very close range, I feel the hands apart techniques are more street relevant.

Ideally, an officer should be familiar with a couple of different techniques so they can adapt to the situation. When using a flashlight in conjunction with cover, make sure the beam is clear and not reflecting back at you, adversely impacting your night adapted vision.



The Rogers Technique works very well with small tactical flashlights.

SOME THOUGHTS ON TRAINING

I recognize that finding the time and a suitable training facility to do extensive low light training is problematic for many agencies. The good news is that a great deal of productive training can be accomplished off the range using inert training pistols or even empty duty pistols (check it twice, no live ammo nearby). Tasks such as flashlight holds, searching, transitions from handheld to WML, and safe movement can all be practiced providing sound safety practices are followed.

There is really nothing magic about the live fire drills I use in my low light classes. Most of it is accomplished at seven yards or closer and it involves firing without a light, using flashlight-assisted firing techniques and use of the WML. The emphasis remains putting decisive hits on the target in the fastest possible time frame. It is important that basic operational skills such as reloading can be performed as efficiently as possible, so as to avoid any miscues in the dark when stress levels are sky-high.

In addition to static range live fire exercises, I also make a point of running a dynamic exercise or two in low light when shooters might have to deal with more than one threat, use cover, move, encounter innocent bystanders, and reload. These exercises are conducted one shooter at a time where performance is critiqued and corrections are made. Participation in reduced light interactive training with Airsoft or marking cartridges can help reinforce what officers learned on the square range. A similar benefit can be realized by having officers move through a shoot house under the watchful eye of an instructor.

Officers need to have a command of simple tactics such as being unpredictable; not leaving the light on any longer than necessary; working the light from cover; and movement. Controlling the light is a fundamental action and, if you control the light, you are likely to control the fight. Putting your assailant at a disadvantage by taking the tactical high ground puts you on the path to success.

Much of what was discussed herein can be applied to shoulder weapons as well. If time permits, a shotgun or rifle with a light is an even more formidable tool with a much higher hit probability. So, team, get busy and practice. Chance continues to favor the prepared individual. **P&SN**

Captain Mike Boyle served with New Jersey Fish & Wildlife, Bureau of Law Enforcement, and has been active in use-of-force instruction for over 40 years. He is an instructor in multiple firearms and less-lethal disciplines and has been a police academy assistant director, instructor and rangemaster. He is the author of three books; three training videos; and hundreds of magazine articles on firearms, training and tactics. Mike served 21 years on the Board of Directors of IALEFI and is a member of NLEFIA and ILEETA. He continues to work part-time as a law enforcement training specialist and resides in Forked River, NJ.

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JAMES L. MCCLINTON, PH.D.

It's always "something"...

A sheriff's deputy pulled a man over in Bakersfield, Missouri, on a routine traffic stop. When the officer learned the driver lacked insurance, he informed him the car would be towed. Another deputy told him that, since it was so hot, he would give him a ride back to his residence. The driver agreed to the ride, but told the deputy that he first had to grab something out of the back of the car. It turned out that the "something" was some canned vegetables and a bucket of marijuana…lots of marijuana – over a pound – and multiple baggies of methamphetamine weighing 43 grams, a scale, a broken glass pipe, and a cell phone. The man was charged with felony drug trafficking. (*Canned vegetables? Maybe they were also "high in fiber."*)

It looks like the "duh"-fendant gets to stay in Michigan for at least 558 more days… A Michigan man is going to find himself in jail for a few months after an outburst in court where he yelled at a Washtenaw County judge and told him to kiss his a**. It was a simple case of misdemeanor trespassing, but just as the judge was finishing up, the man decided to share his thoughts. At the first swearing, the judge had already heard enough. "You know what? No, no, no. You don't come in here…" The man replied, "F*** you!" The judge said, adding "that's contempt. That's a 93 day misdemeanor." After the man repeated the profanity, he was gifted with another 93 day misdemeanor charge. It happened a total of six times – and continued as the bailiff took him out of court in handcuffs. (*Judge, I'd like to appeal this ruling to Judge Judy's court.*)

It's all in the name… When law enforcement officers observed a white van on the I-5 near Weed, California (a city in Siskiyou County), they noticed it kept swerving out of its lane. The officers then engaged their lights and sirens and pursued the vehicle. The van didn't stop and it traveled almost three miles before the driver pulled the vehicle over. Inside the van, they found 1,021 rooted marijuana plants which, according to the 53-year-old driver, were on their way to Oregon. However, the driver did not have the proper documentation from the California Department of Cannabis Control, so he was arrested and charged with illegal transportation and possession of marijuana. (*Isn't Weed located near Incarceration, California?*)

Videotaping this crime spree is the best idea we ever had!... It's a fact that Los Angeles is well-known as being home to many so-called "influencers" who take delight in showing off every aspect of their lives. That may have driven the actions of four criminal masterminds in that city. After pulling off a successful robbery at a 7-Eleven, one of them posted a picture of the cash on his Instagram account. He also tagged the accounts of his three accomplices on the post. Not surprisingly, this act of vanity proved to be a bad idea. Police used surveillance camera footage taken at this robbery and several other 7-Eleven robberies to easily link the crooks to the crimes. Frankly, I'm looking forward to his next influencer post – one of the tasty baloney sandwiches he's enjoying at the jail. (*The power of social media over dumb people is astounding.*)

It was a slow day for the sheriff's deputies… The Polk County Sheriff's Office said an alleged shoplifter at a Walmart store in Lakeland, Florida, absconded with several items worth a total of $167.00. "Deputies pursued [the suspect] as he attempted his getaway on a stolen electric Walmart scooter," the department said. The 35-year-old miscreant "hit speeds of about two mph on the scooter before deputies caught up to him" in front of a Dunkin' Donuts. He was booked into jail pending a $13,500 bond, charged with petit theft, felony grand theft (of the $1,325 cart) and unlawful possession of a shopping cart. (*We now know what the opposite of "Fast and Furious" looks like.*)

This is probably the best antismoking commercial I've ever imagined… Police recently responded to a fire in the early morning hours at a U-Haul business in Roseburg, Oregon. One van was fully engulfed in flames and the fire was spreading to a second vehicle. Security footage from the area identified a 47-year-old woman whose van with "Nana's Sweet Treats" on the side was seen in the area. When officers spoke with the woman, she admitted to siphoning gas from the U-Haul and then lighting a cigarette. She was charged a few days later with first degree criminal mischief and reckless burning. (*She was subsequently "hauled" off to jail.*)

I'd say they need a little work on their business acumen… A man and a woman in Louisville, Kentucky (where marijuana is illegal), showed their hand a little too publicly when they posted videos of their marijuana production processes to social media. The couple was arrested after a detective arranged to meet the female in a parking lot to buy some weed. During the exchange, she told the detective that she "packages the product on a 'thousands level scale' and had just completed a 1,000 pack order over the weekend." Police seized 218 pounds of marijuana, worth about $450,000 on the street. (*Gee, you mean law enforcement has access to social media?*)

Background check…what's a background check?... The 58-year-old Executive Director of St. Vincent de Paul of Bend, Oregon, was arrested on methamphetamine delivery and possession charges, accused of selling commercial quantities from his Redmond home within 1,000 feet of two schools. St. Vincent De Paul is a nonprofit which provides food, clothing, prescriptions, and transitional housing to help those who are in need. The Deschutes County Sheriff's Office concluded a short-term investigation, finding scales, packaging materials and cash at his home. He was charged with delivering meth near a school (Class A felony) and possessing substantial quantities (Class C felony). It was also determined that, in 2009, he entered an Alford plea for meth possession and second-degree theft. (*Drug testing for thee, but not for me…*) P&SN

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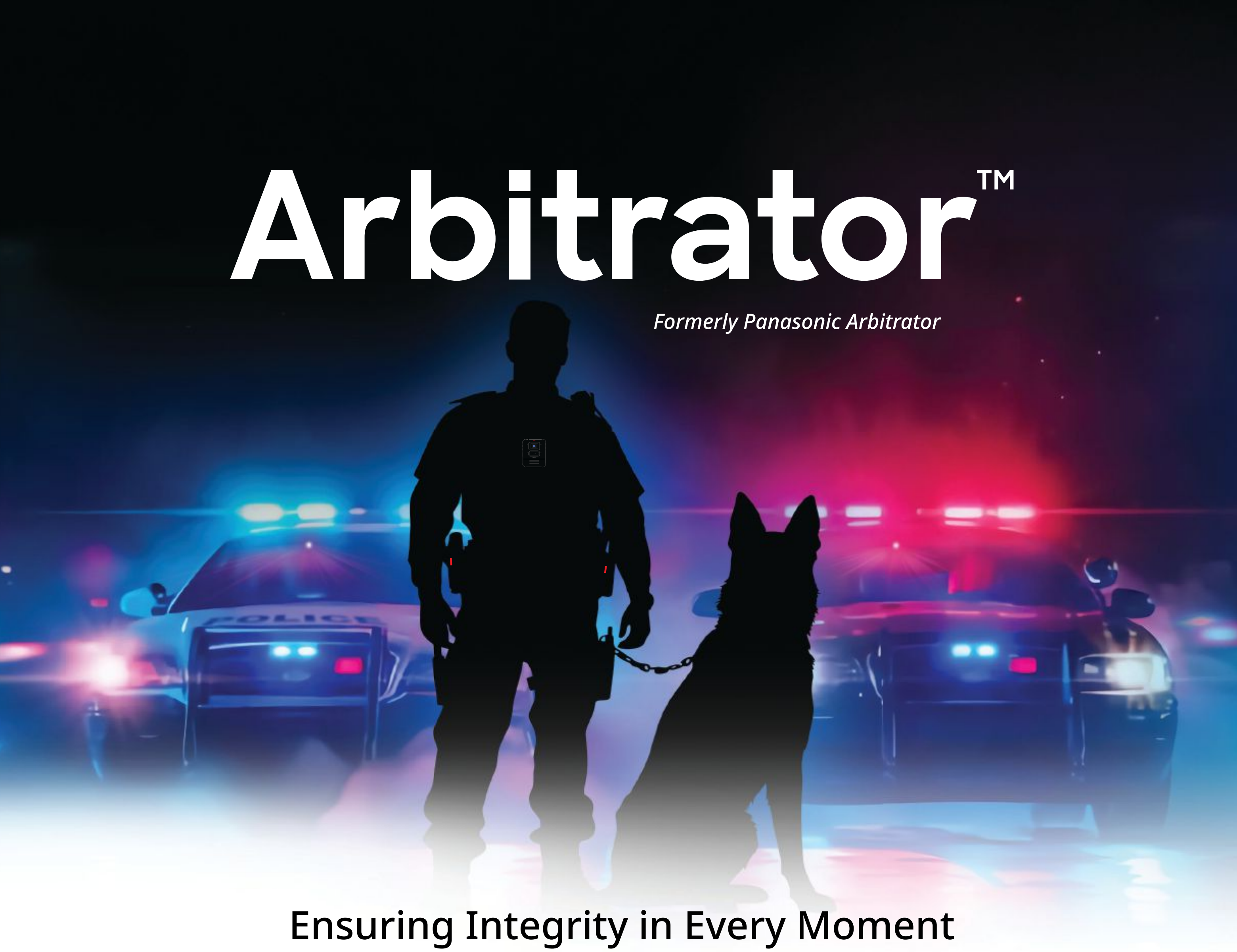

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